



City of Wichita
455 N. Main
Wichita, KS 67202

Wichita Police Department

September 2006 Monthly Report



"Rolling Stones" Concert An Inter-Agency Success Story

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Special points of interest:

The Cops vs Wranglers Charity Baseball Game & Silent Auction held on September 3rd at Lawrence Dumont Stadium raised \$10,000 for the Sedgwick County Law Enforcement Memorial.

The event had been the buzz of the town for months: the Rolling Stones were coming to Wichita, and their concert at Cessna Stadium was to be *the* concert of all concerts in Wichita. It drew more than 30,000 people and required hundreds of hours of intense planning. Yet, it was judged by many to be a resounding success thanks to the planning by WPD and other organizations and agencies including Wichita State University, the Wichita Fire Department, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, the Wichita Transit Authority, Durham Bus Services, the Wichita Board of Education, Sedgwick County Emergency Services, Sedgwick County EMS, Wichita Public Works and the FBI Taskforce.

WPD involvement included participation in the event's planning, and traffic and crowd control before, during and after the concert. Monitoring of the event was carried out by members of the various agencies in the command center in Koch Arena, and by the WPD Air Section, which flew over the concert.

Of the thousands who attended, only one arrest was made when a concert fan was taken into custody by Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputies for disorderly conduct.



Patrol North Captain Felecia Norris (standing left) is shown in the command center during the Rolling Stones concert. The command center was located in Koch Arena.

Did You Know.....

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During the month of September, WPD members received 21 Commendatory Performance Reports that were generated internally and 19 that were generated externally.  
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The Professional Standards Bureau opened two external complaints on members of the Department during September. There were eight internal complaints filed against Department employees.
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In September the Awards Committee approved 42 awards. Of those, forty went to Field Services Division and two to Investigations Division.  
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In the month of September, Field Services personnel issued 8,016 moving citations and 132 DUI arrests.
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During September the City Hall Security Officers screened 41,535 people entering the City Hall building atrium.  
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During the month of September members of the Training Academy participated in the City Arts Career Fair in Old Town, the WSU Career Fair at Koch Arena, the Career Opportunities in Government at City Arts, and spoke to a class of Fort Hays State University students about the Wichita Police Department and recruiting.
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On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Officers Gillispie and Thatcher were assigned to Bike Patrol in the Old Town area. During the evening the officers were able to make six arrests for Open Containers and Urinate in Public.  
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The EOD Unit responded to seven device calls in September as well as two separate training sessions for KLETC and a training session for the KPOA Conference in Topeka.  
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SWAT responded to three callouts in September. During an extended stand-off,



Harvey County Emergency

Response Team was called to assist with relieving our members.
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On September 5<sup>th</sup> Mayberry School SRO Officer Boone conducted five classes for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade science on how evidence is obtained at a crime scene, including a demonstration on how latent fingerprints are lifted. The session included a question and answer session for 125 students.  
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On September 12th the 8th grade science classes at Mayberry School were working on distance and time experiments. SRO Boone interacted with the 150 students and demonstrated the police equipment's use and assisted them in verifying their calculations.
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On September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> SRO Piotrowski assisted staff from the Wichita Sexual Assault Center in teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade students sexual harassment.  
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On September 13<sup>th</sup> Det. Pfeifer attended a meeting at the Wichita Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Coalition and gave a presentation of the Elliott decision and how it is affecting domestic violence cases.  
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Judy Brunhoeber, Victims Assistance Unit, attended the Day of Remembrance for the Parents of Murdered Children at Riverside Park on September 25th.
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Patrol South officers worked a child ID program at Vineyard Christian Church on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The church was celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had over 200 people in attendance for the fun and festivities. Officers were able to register over 50 kids and talk with them about 'stranger danger'.  
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On September 16th several 35 beat team members participated in the 2nd annual neighborhood clean up in Dry Creek. Several area citizens provided trailers so officers and the citizens could pick up trash for the elderly and handicapped. The president of the association had all the addresses and items to be picked up written on cards to make the process easier. The clean up was a huge success.
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On September 30th the "Race for the Cure" was held at Douglas & Towne East Mall road. The route went thru Wichita and Eastborough. An estimated 8000 plus people ran the race. There were four fulltime officers, ten WPD reserves, three SO reserves and eight WFD personnel involved in traffic control and security for the event.
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## Program Teaches Kids to Avoid Gangs

WPD and USD259 are teaming up again to help middle school children avoid trouble. The GREAT program, for Gang Resistance Education And Training, is a 13-week program in place in schools nationwide.

The City in late August received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice worth more than \$96,000 to get the program off the ground. The grant received by WPD paid for training the officers and purchasing materials for the course. Under GREAT, WPD School Resource Officers will teach the curriculum. Implementation of the GREAT program got underway in middle schools in August.

## WPD Helps Northeast Church Hold "Pajama Drive-In"

They took a page out of the 1960s and gave it a 21<sup>st</sup> century twist. And, thanks to the help of officers from Patrol North, children and adults in northeast Wichita got a positive look at the Wichita Police Department.

The first "Pajama Drive-In" was the brainchild of Reverend Demarco Owens at the Madison Avenue Church of Christ. Owens said children and their parents were invited to bring blankets and sleeping bags on the evening of Friday, September 8th to watch a private showing of the movie *Akeelah and the Bee*.

According to Owens, the purpose was to bring families together on a Friday night in an old-fashioned setting that featured games and activities for the children. Officers representing WPD showed the youngsters their patrol cars.

The event, which ran from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m., drew about 125 children and adults.



## WPD Class of 1981 celebrate 25th year anniversary

Standing left to right: Deputy Chief Robert Coy Lee, Lieutenant Clark Wiemeyer, Sergeant John Hoofer, Officer Jeff Kaster, Lieutenant Paul Moser.

Sitting left to right: Captain Felecia Norris, Lieutenant Darrell Atteberry





## "Operation Safe Community II" targets gun and gang violence

Criminal justice experts have long held that proactive policing is an effective tool used in curbing violence. That concept led the WPD command staff to implement Operation Safe Community II in September as a way to further combat firearms and gang violence throughout the community.

"While the total number of shootings from January 1 to September 17, 2006 remains virtually the same as in 2005, we've seen about a 33% decline in drive-by shootings over that period," said Police Chief Norman Williams. "And, while one homicide is one homicide too many, the number of homicides so far this year are not alarming."



Nonetheless, said Williams, Operation Safe Community II involves a re-deployment of WPD resources to attack firearm and gang violence. He said it also involves getting the community actively engaged. "Citizens should not be afraid to become involved in helping reduce gang violence. They are needed to help solve cases, and there are two effective ways they can do that: By calling either Crime Stoppers at 267-2111, or the WPD SCAT Hotline at 267-SCAT."

Gang leaders and specific gang members are being specifically targeted as part of Operation Safe Community II, said Williams. "This allows us to redeploy WPD resources quickly and effectively anytime there is a shooting", he said. "Another part of WPD's strategy is to work closely with the District and Municipal court system to vigorously prosecute gang members and those who violate the law."

Williams says the results of Operation Safe Community II will be evaluated at the end of November. The project began officially on September 30.

## Crime Commission Honors Law Enforcement at Annual Event



Every fall the Wichita Crime Commission holds its annual dinner to honor men and women in law enforcement. This year's event drew about 450 people who were on hand when the evening's awards were handed out on September 28th at the Wichita Hilton.

The 2006 Officer of the Year award went to Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputy Hank Cocking and his drug-sniffing wonder-dog Rommel. And, it's easy to see why the two were honored. Over the last 12 months, Cocking and Rommel have seized \$3.5 million worth of drugs and sent a lot of people to jail.

Retired WPD Deputy Chief Al Thimmesch also was honored as the law enforcement officer of the year for his work with the Kansas Peace Officers Association.

In other recognition ceremonies, WPD community police Officer Steve Jerrell was recognized for ability to reduce crime through his proactive involvement with children and adults in the Plainview area.

And, another crime prevention award went to Mary Jo Seiler who received the Willard Garvey Crime Prevention Award. Her restaurant and catering business in Colwich has donated 2,300 fried chicken dinners to the annual law camp at Lake Afton over the years.

The final award of the evening went to Crime Commission volunteer Lou Kirby. She was recognized for her work for the commission over the years.

Patrol East  
Community Police  
Officer  
**Steve Jerrell**





## Behind the scenes ...

### Officer teaches boy route to school

Officer Ginny Wylie assisted Linwood Elementary with a child they were not able to get bus services for. The child's mother is unable to drive due to health conditions. The child only lives four blocks from the school and when he attempted to walk to school on his own he got lost for over an hour, even though he just needed to walk straight north on Hydraulic. Therefore, the mother paid for a cab every day for her child to get to and from school. Officer Wylie met with the child and his mother and taught the third grader his way to and from school by walking with him on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> before and after school and how to cross the street safely. On September 13<sup>th</sup> Officer Wylie followed him to school, without his knowledge, and he made it to school safely and on time, and has continued to do so since he has learned his way!



### Officer translates English to Spanish

Officer Ramon Machain, a 13 year veteran officer, is assigned to the School Liaison unit



Every Wednesday morning Officer Ramon Machain assists Detective Ron Trollope with the Crime Stopper Program. He translates the Crime of the Week and presents it to the KFDI sister Spanish radio station KYQQ FM 106.5 as well as taping it in Spanish for the TV Station "AZTECA AMERICA" Channel 51 and sending it to the two Spanish newspapers. Officer Machain also monitors the bilingual telephone hotline for WPD SCAT unit and translates for them the Spanish messages that are left on the answering machine.

In addition, on September 7th Officer Machain gave a Gang Prevention presentation in Spanish for the Latino Parents Night at East High School. Over 100 parents were in attendance.

### Crime Scene Investigator Donna Elson retires

After 30 years of service Donna Elson retired from the Wichita Police Department on September 18th.

Donna joined the WPD in May 1977. She worked in the Records Section assigned to the Case Desk Unit and SPIDER Unit. In 1981 she was promoted to a Traffic Investigator and in 2000 she became a Crime Scene Investigator.

She will be missed by her WPD family.

Chief Norman Williams and Donna Elson at her retirement reception on September 18th, 2006.



## Two Arrested in Connection With Auto Theft and Recycling Scam

The Wichita Police Department, working in conjunction with the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Department of Revenue, arrested two people in connection with an auto theft and recycling operation. Captain Darrell Haynes, the commander of the Department's Property Crimes Bureau, said the thieves apparently were motivated by the rising value of scrap metal.

"The two suspects would steal cars, create bogus bills of sale, then deliver the vehicles to Aaron's Auto Recycling where they were paid cash," said Haynes. "We believe higher scrap metal costs prompted the suspects to commit the thefts."



Haynes said the operation was discovered when one of the victims called Aaron's to ask the company to be on the lookout for his 1958 Buick that recently had been stolen. When the manager advised him the car was already there, the man went to recover his vehicle. He then learned the two men who had brought the car in would probably return to the business with another vehicle. Wichita Police officers were called, and two suspects were arrested when they returned to Aaron's driving a stolen car that was towing a second stolen car.

During the month of September and the first five days of October the two suspects delivered more than 26 vehicles to Aaron's Auto Recycling using false bills of sale that included names such as Susan Peters and Donte Hall. Some of the vehicles had expired tags and might have appeared to be abandoned on city streets. Others were "For Sale By Owner" cars, and vehicles that were stolen from repair shops and private residences. One vehicle, a van stolen from Holy Savior Catholic Church, was scheduled to be donated to a needy family.

In all, fourteen vehicles were recovered at the recycling business, said Haynes. "Other vehicles that were stolen have already been crushed and recycled, and will never be recovered," he said. Haynes added the investigation continues.

### *Police response times*

Through the month of August, police have taken an average of 4 minutes and 8 seconds to respond to the most serious emergency calls—where a life threatening crime like a homicide, shooting, rape or robbery is occurring. The span is measured from the time someone calls 911 until an officer arrives at the scene.



### Gang Tattoo Removal Program



The Gang Tattoo Removal Program offers former gang members the chance to put their affiliation behind them by having their gang tattoos removed. An application can be obtained at any Wichita police substation.

For more information contact Officer John Biagini at Patrol East at 688-9300 or [jbiagini@wichita.gov](mailto:jbiagini@wichita.gov).